

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending in the above-identified patent application.

Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 15. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 to incorporate the feature of dependent claim 15.\* Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 20 are now in allowable form. Dependent claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-20, which depend from independent claim 1, are likewise allowable. Reconsideration and prompt allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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\* Applicants reserve the right to pursue original claims 1 and 21 in one or more subsequent continuing patent applications.